

Daniel was assigned to the Air Force's 552nd Operations Support Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. He was an airborne sensor operator and a qualified Air Force air surveillance instructor who served with distinction at Tinker Air Force Base.

In his dozen years of service, Daniel deployed on three tours as an E-3 AWACS, or airborne warning and control system, aircraft surveillance technician. He was also an MC-12 sensor operator. While in Afghanistan, Daniel was assigned to the 361st Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron as a member of the 451st Air Expeditionary Wing at Kandahar Air Base.

His mother said:

After his death, multiple superior officers have told me how respected he was, how well Daniel performed his duties, and that he was exceptional at mentoring young airmen personally as he was professionally. Daniel was a very devout man. Many have said that he led them to Christ or reconnected them with the Lord.

His wife Sonya agrees:

He was a Christian man of Christian values and morals. He served God in all that he did.

Daniel also liked to laugh and joke with his family and friends. Sonya says:

He went by many nicknames; "Dan the man," "Fan Dannin," and my dad's favorite, "Lieutenant Dan." My dad would always ask, "Lieutenant Dan, have you flown much lately?" Danny would stick his arms out to each side and say he had been flying as much as he could.

After Daniel's death, at a park located near Tinker Area Force Base, where he had been stationed, Daniel's legacy was honored with a replica E-3 AWACS aircraft dedicated in his honor in a ceremony in April of this year. Inscribed on the tail of the E-3 replica honoring Daniel are the words "Service Before Self," one of the Air Force's core values those who knew Daniel knew he lived by.

Sonya Fannin was present for the dedication to her husband, and she spoke to the crowd of about 300. She said:

This memorializes Daniel's very essence, his giving spirit in a way which those in the public can see. Memorializing Danny here in the public park, a place in which our civilian friends and family can visit and heal on their own time, is truly special.

Daniel's family members and friends are foremost in our thoughts as I recount this story for my Senate colleagues today. They include his wife Sonya Fannin, his mother Sharri Jones, his grandparents Henry and Fern Hamm, and many other beloved family members and friends.

I would like to close with some words from Daniel's mother Sharri about her son. Here is what she said:

I know that there are many who continue to grieve deeply over Daniel's passing. To them I would say, take the things that Daniel shared with you, learn from them, and pass them forward. Give others what he gave you. In that way, he will live forever.

I couldn't agree more with such a heartfelt sentiment.

I would like the family of SSgt Daniel Fannin to know that Members of the Senate do indeed recognize the things Daniel gave to his country—namely, his service, his life, and his sacred honor. We will be forever grateful.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each and with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

#### REMEMBERING MATT HALEY

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I come to the floor today my heart heavy with a challenging task, which is to convey the remarkable, the special, the powerful spirit of a friend who passed 3 weeks ago in a tragic accident in India.

Matt Haley was a remarkable Delawarean. Matt Haley was a gifted and accomplished chef and entrepreneur. Matt Haley was someone who touched so many lives in my home State of Delaware.

In 2012 Matt won the Delaware Restaurant Association's Cornerstone Award, a lifetime achievement award recognizing restaurateurs who dedicate their lives to humanitarian efforts.

Matt owned eight different restaurants all across the beach region so well known to folks here in Washington. Matt owned restaurants in Rehoboth Beach, Lewes, Ocean View, Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island, and was involved in dozens of other business enterprises in other States.

In 2014 Matt had the best year he ever had in terms of the reach and scope of his potential and his vision and his recognition by his profession. He won the National Restaurant Association Cornerstone Humanitarian Award. I was thrilled to be able to join in that celebration here in Washington. He won the International Association of Culinary Professionals Humanitarian Award. He won the James Beard Humanitarian Award in a remarkable celebration in New York. He won all three major recognitions, major awards from the restaurant and culinary industry—the triple crown, as it were.

Having never met him, you might think this man, having been so successful as an entrepreneur and a businessman and so recognized and celebrated in all these different ways, would have been puffed up and filled with himself and with pride and with a sense of ac-

complishment and success. Matt did have a sense of accomplishment and success, but it came from a very different place. His spirit, his personality was profoundly different than that brief resume might suggest because Matt was someone who had a second and a third chance at life, so he embraced it with a passion and an open-heartedness I have never seen anywhere else.

Matt was 53 years old and had been sober for 24 years. Not many years before this remarkable year of success he had this year, Matt had been riding the bus to work as a minimum-wage dishwasher as he was reinventing himself. Matt spent 4 years in prison on a 13-year prison sentence.

As he memorably remarked in a talk he gave days before he left on this trip to India, Matt had life-altering, terrible experiences as a child. Matt had managed to grow up in an environment of circumstances and have experiences that would cripple any human person, any spirit, and had become someone who was violent and addicted, and inevitably, as a consequence of a lot of his actions, he ended up in jail. He was exactly the sort of person so many would be willing to write off. Yet Matt found an opportunity through the culinary arts, through the simple and powerful skill of cooking for others. He found a pathway back and a roadway up. Matt was someone who cooked not just well but was gifted at pulling together completely unrelated items and making something simple, tasty, and powerful.

Matt understood what a remarkable pathway toward success and independence restaurants can be for those who start working at the very lowest end of the scale in our country in terms of pay scale and yet can steadily grow to be successful managers or even restaurant owners.

Matt was someone who also had just gotten a positive diagnosis after struggling with a nearly life-ending bout with cancer. Matt had nearly died to this world once as a young man in prison and then had nearly died to us a second time through cancer.

I was blessed to have gotten to know him just in the last few years and to have been touched by the power of his energy. Matt had a hunger to connect with and touch and help love others in the world who hadn't yet seen the possibilities of this world.

Matt would go anywhere, anytime to help someone in need in Delaware.

The stories are legend of what Matt did spontaneously and powerfully to reach out and touch folks in our home State and around the world who needed his special gift—not just his resources but his energy and his kindness.

Matt's business partner Scott shared with me a story that he was literally driving down the road and came across a van from the Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc., DAPI, a van for a program that helps young moms complete school and be healthy and successful

mothers. Their van was broken down by the side of the road, and, after learning more about the program and its impact and its importance and seeing their dilapidated and outdated van, he literally bought them a new one on the spot.

Matt was someone who, having never traveled before until recent years when he first became successful, found himself challenged and then enlivened and then aflamed with a passion for traveling around the world and for hearing from and connecting with young people and their needs. He tells much more powerfully than I can the story of his becoming connected to young women, to girls, in Nepal, victims of trafficking, victims of sexual abuse, who were hungry and lonely and to whom he was able to help provide food and shelter and hope.

He later also connected with a whole community in Central America, and he traveled regularly to India and Nepal and to Central America as well as up and down my State. He volunteered in our prisons. He worked with our food bank. He spent time and gave resources in India and Nepal and in Central America. Literally the last time I spoke to Matt, I had just had an opportunity to meet a young woman who was truly struggling to find opportunity in our home State. She was a recovering drug addict and came up to me at an event in Dover and frankly said she never believed someone in my position would care and would work and take any risk to help someone like her find employment. She was interested in possibly working in a restaurant.

As we talked at greater length, I told her Matt's story. I told her how this young man, full of anger and abuse and difficulty in his young life, had ended up an addict and in prison and yet, through his own determination and through the kindness and partnership of others, had managed to go on to be an incredible success, an employer to hundreds, even thousands, and a contributor and a leader to groups such as La Esperanza and the food bank, and to support public school teachers and to support folks coming out of prison. I asked if she would be interested in hearing from him.

In my last conversation with Matt—a man who was incredibly busy, as he was finishing up several business projects and about to get on a plane to meet a long commitment with a group of girls in need—he said: Absolutely. I would love to talk to her. Get her on the phone with me.

He made time the next day to meet her, encourage her, and invite her to come to the food bank presentation he was making.

To his very last breath, Matt was passionate about touching and changing the lives of others. His very last initiative was to fund teachers and schools in southern Delaware and help provide supplies for them in their classrooms, and his very last day was

spent riding a motorcycle on one of the highest and most dangerous roads in the world in the Himalaya to personally deliver supplies and engagement and support to girls in a remote village in a difficult and distant part of the world.

Matt Haley's compassion, his spirit, and his energy touched deeply me and so many others. His determination to do everything he could with every day he had and to make every difference he could in the world should inspire and challenge all of us. He has left a significant amount of his accumulated resources to his Global Delaware Fund, which will continue his great work in these many places.

It is my hope and my prayer that all of us who have had our lives touched by Matt and by his unique and infectious humor and spirit will continue his remarkable lifetime of work and that all of us will remember that in this Nation, every person has value and every person has potential no matter where they are from or where they are today. Their path forward can be lifted if we just continue to carry forward the remarkable passion and spirit of Matt Haley.

I thank the Chair.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. AIR FORCE AND MAJOR K.C. COURTLAND

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, it is a good day for Major Courtland to be here because another thing I want to talk about today is the Air Force itself and to pay tribute to those in the Air Force. This is the anniversary of the 67 years of service and sacrifice for our Nation—clearly the greatest air power in the history of the world, the first place we turn when we want to make an immediate difference in a chaotic situation in the world.

We are talking this week, again, about how the Air Force can make a difference, whether it is those based at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri or those based all over the world. The Air Force continues, in so many ways, to project our strength and our commitment to a more peaceful world by using the power that we do have in a way that ensures that in some cases the playing field is more fair because we keep people on the ground rather than let despotic governments get their weapons in the air. In some places we are able to intervene, as we did recently in conjunction with the Peshmerga, to allow the recapture of the dam in Iraq that is essential, and even beyond that, could have itself been used as a great weapon if that dam would have been allowed to be breached and then the flood that would have occurred because of that.

The Air Force was created in 1947 under President Harry Truman's leadership. Prior to that it was called the U.S. Army Air Corps. I am proud to stand today at one of the desks that Senator Truman used on the Senate floor—a desk later used by other Mis-

sourians, by Senator Eagleton, by Senator Danforth, by Senator Bond—but a desk used by President Truman as he served in what he said were the best years of his working life—his time as a Senator.

But he faced lots of hard challenges as President. One was how we moved forward in a new and different world after World War II and how we used our technology in different ways. One of those was to recognize that the U.S. Army Air Corps had risen to a place that it really deserved to be recognized for what it was—the Air Force. The first Secretary of the Air Force, another Missourian, was Senator Stuart Symington, who then would later serve in this body as a Senator.

Certainly, we have benefited in our office from having Kelly Courtland, Maj. K.C. Courtland, who has been helping us this year in my responsibilities on both the Armed Services Committee and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. This is actually her anniversary as well as a member of the Air Force. She now completes 24 years of Air Force service on exactly the same day that the Air Force was established 67 years ago. Twenty-four years ago Major Courtland enlisted in the Air Force. For the last year she has helped us fulfill the responsibilities in our office that we have and the No. 1 responsibility of the Federal Government—the one thing almost no one would argue we could do for ourselves; that is the responsibility of defending the country.

We are hoping we see Major Courtland stationed in Missouri one of these days. She is from Ludington, MI. She will be running her 85th marathon this weekend—the Air Force Marathon. She values her military training. She served from enlisted to now her role as a major and has been unbelievably helpful to us at this time.

As we think about Major Courtland and all of the others who serve, we want to be very mindful of their service, their willingness to step forward to defend our freedom, to be willing to defend our freedom at a time when, once again, we are talking about this week those who would threaten our freedom and what we will do about that and how we are looking to be sure that the strategy we have and the resolve we have is a resolve that allows us to convince our enemies that a peaceful world—a world where people can pursue their own values, where they are able to pursue their own right of conscience, where they are able to look within themselves and determine their own religious convictions rather than have someone tell them what those convictions are and demand that everybody follow exactly the same path in the way they view religion and the way they consequently would be required, because of that one view, to view society and how people should live together—hopefully those who defend us will get the kind of support and the kind of thoughtful consideration and